Humanitarian Assistance — 32%
Natural Resources and Environment — 19%
Sciences and Technology — 10%
Public Health — 9%
Sector to be Defined — 9%
Tourism — 6%
Social Development and Welfare — 5%
Agriculture — 5%
Infrastructure and Public Utilities — 4%
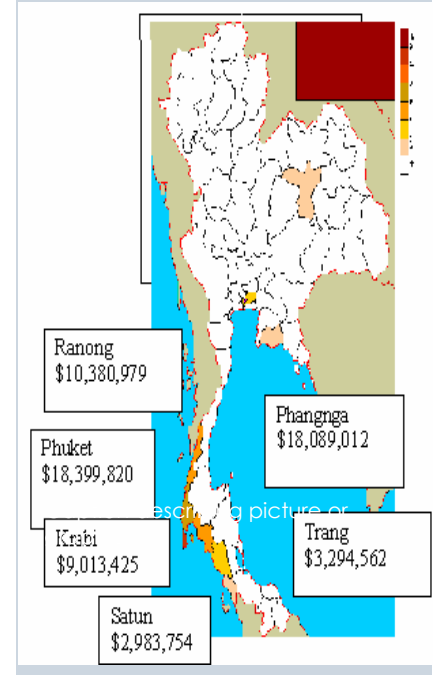**Education** — 2%

"The Government of Thailand is committed to the transparent, accountable and efficient use of technical assistance provided for Tsunami relief, recovery and reconstruction. DAD Thailand is a tool that is owned by the Government of Thailand for the benefit of the whole Government, its partners and the citizens of Thailand"

DAD THAILAND NEWS – May 2006

In April 2006 DAD Thailand was given an exciting update with the arrival of DAD Version 5.5. The new 5.5 version brings some new features which will make the DAD more useful and user-friendly to all concerned people and organizations. As well as these new features, 5.5 has eliminated many small faults in the system, making DAD Thailand more reliable, and therefore more useful as a tool for aid coordination and transparency.

DAD 5.5 New Features

1. Search Engine – This means you can now run a text search on DAD Thailand, adding to the number of ways it is possible to perform your search. For example, you can now type "boat" and all those projects featuring the word boat will appear.

2. Partial saving has been introduced – This makes it possible to save what information you have available to type in a certain session first, and to then come back later when you have the other details.

3. Standardized funding source and partner names – names have been standardized across all sections of DAD, making searches and reports easier and more compatible with each other, for purposes of cross analysis.

4. Dashboard module has been enhanced. It is now possible to add all types of data: maps, charts, reports, and lists (in the form of a report).

5. The list view now has totals given at the bottom of each column.

6. Viewing/Printing All Project Details on the same screen has been enabled.

7. It is now possible to rename DAD usernames. For example it is possible to register for an organization DAD account and to change the automatically assigned username to an organization username (e.g. undp_user).

Ranong
$10,380,979

Phuket
$18,399,820

Krabi
$9,013,425

Satun
$2,983,754

Phangnga
$18,089,012

Trang
$3,294,562

Evacuation drill at a school in Kamala (see story below)

DAD team invited to Department of Fisheries/FAO meeting

On Wednesday 8th March 2006 the TICA Development Assistance Database team was invited by the Department of Fisheries and the FAO to join a meeting on their joint tsunami aid coordination efforts. During the meeting representatives of both parties, including the Resident Representative of the FAO, Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, expressed their interest in linking their own aid coordination project to the DAD and in finding ways that they could make best use of this innovative tool for transparency and aid coordination.

DAD Team visits project site

In February the DAD team visited several project sites in the provinces of Phang-Nga and Phuket. One of these was the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) project being supported by UNDP, on "early warning and preparedness". The visit was well timed to coincide with a practice school evacuation – one component of this project.

Below is the full story, as reported by UNDP Thailand.

"9 February 2006: The students of a school on Kamala beach in southern Thailand had their first tsunami evacuation drill in early February. The entire town and school were badly hit by the tsunami last year. The students, the teachers, the local community and the district administration organized a practice session in order to be better prepared for any future natural disasters. The drill proved that the teachers could, in fact, take students to a safe point on a hill within 15 minutes.

The evacuation drill was part of a wider community plan in which the whole town is involved. The school is responsible for the evacuation of students up to the school gates, and then a committee of residents helps ensure the students are brought to safety. This exercise was one element of an "Early Warning and Preparedness" project, run by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The aim of this larger initiative is to set up early warning systems, and assist in the strengthening of institutional disaster management and community preparedness plans.

During the course of the evacuation drill at the Rachaprachuanukroh School, the students had to cross over a bridge and a busy road controlled by the police. They were then led to higher ground on a steep hill, where teachers took roll call to make sure no one was left behind. Six volunteer lifeguards were positioned on the beach and along the school evacuation route.

The practice evacuation revealed some flaws in the plan, and therefore a meeting took place after the practice session. The bridge was deemed too narrow, so local authorities will fund its widening. The rough path from the beach to the safe point will be replaced by a new road that will provide an easier public route to traverse. The drill also illustrated that the police radio and the committee radio were not compatible and need upgrading.

In a presentation after the drill, Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, senior advisor of the ADPC and former governor of Bangkok, emphasized the importance of establishing protocol. He said that when the tsunami hit, people in the early warning centre in Hawaii saw the waves as they approached, but there was no established system in place and they did not know whom to call. The result was that none of the tsunami countries had enough prior warning."   (Source: UNDP Thailand)

How the data is looking

If we take a look at a pie chart of the value of tsunami activities broken down by sector, we can see that the percentage listed as "sector to be defined" is now significantly lower than previously. This is a great credit to all the hard work and commitment by the many partners involved in DAD data entry. So, a very big thank you to everyone!

As the more immediate reconstruction efforts start to wrap up we should start to see the proportion of projects shift from the current largest bloc (humanitarian assistance) to areas concerning more long-term development projects, such as social development and welfare.

There is currently a total of over $US175 Million recorded inside the DAD Thailand, including bilaterals, UN agencies, other multilaterals, and NGOs.

The current amount shown under the Royal Thai Government obviously does not reflect the full amount provided through their tsunami budget. The $US10 Million represents joint projects with the EU and the French Government.

Efforts to display the full picture of the Royal Thai Government's own budget are in progress.

Key Stats

Total Commitments = US$175,058,887

Total Disbursements = US$89,144,573

Total Expenditure = US$61,829,321

Number of International Partners = 39

Number of Funding Sources = 34

Province receiving most funds = Phuket

Pie chart legend:
- Humanitarian Assistance — 32%
- Natural Resources and Environment — 19%
- Sciences and Technology — 10%
- Public Health — 9%
- Sector to be Defined — 9%
- Tourism — 6%
- Social Development and Welfare — 5%
- Agriculture — 5%
- Infrastructure and Public Utilities — 4%
- Education — 2%